

# CHILD NUTRITION AND FOOD DISTRIBUTION DIVISION

## MANAGEMENT BULLETIN

No.: 97-363

TO:	Summer Food Service Program Sponsors	ISSUE DATE: July 1997
FROM:	Summer Food Service Program Unit	
ATTENTION:	Authorized Representative	
SUBJECT:	Summer Food Service Program Meal Patterns for Younger Children	
REFERENCES:	United States Department of Agriculture Memorandum SA-9-3-APB-SFSP-97-09	

This Bulletin clarifies the policy of feeding infants on the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). In Child Nutrition Programs, an infant is defined as a child from birth to one year of age.

The legislative intent of Congress when it authorized the SFSP was to ensure that school-aged children participating in the National School Lunch Program would have access to meals when schools were out of session for 15 or more consecutive school days. However, many children younger than school-age (aged younger than six years) participate in the SFSP. The Regulations, Section 225.16(g) (2) state that sponsors serving meals to infants and children under six years of age must follow the Child and Adult Care Food Program's age-appropriate meal patterns. Appropriate foods for younger children differ in amounts and textures, especially for infants.

Attached are the meal patterns for children ages birth to one year; one to three years; three to six years, and six to twelve years. The meal pattern for children ages six through twelve years is the same as the SFSP meal pattern. The other meal patterns contain variations in quantities and textures.

Sponsors operating the SFSP may elect to use the meal pattern for younger children if the site serves younger children exclusively. If more than one age group attends a meal service and more than one meal pattern is used, records must reflect that the proper amounts of foods are prepared for all meals claimed for reimbursement.

In order to claim meals for infants on the SFSP, written authorization must be obtained from the SFSP unit and the infant meal pattern must be used. Age-appropriate meals must be served to infants to ensure their safety as well as their nutritional well-being. If at anytime during an administrative or site review, it is observed that infants are served inappropriate foods, a notation will be made by the reviewer, and the sponsor will be instructed to use the infant meal pattern. Upon a follow-up review, if the same activity is observed, the meals served to infants will be disallowed.

If a Women Infants and Children (WIC) clinic wishes to be a SFSP site, it should strive to feed meals to all needy children ages eighteen and under in eligible areas, including infants.

If you have any questions regarding this Bulletin, please call Karen Brazille, Child Nutrition Consultant, Summer Food Service Program at (916) 323-2486, or use the toll free number (800) 333-5675 to leave a message.

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Duwayne Brooks, Director  
Child Nutrition and Food Distribution Division  
Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction

Jane Irvine Henderson, Ph.D.  
Deputy Superintendent  
Child, Youth and Family Services Branch

Attachment:

This is an equal opportunity program. If you believe you have been discriminated against because of race, color, ethnic/national origin, age, sex, religion or disability, you should write immediately to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

